

REMARKS

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 38-40 are allowed. Claims 62 and 64 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection of claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 49-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action notes that it is unclear whether a friction ring as recited in claims 49 and 60 is the “same or different” than the belt recited in claims 49 and 60.

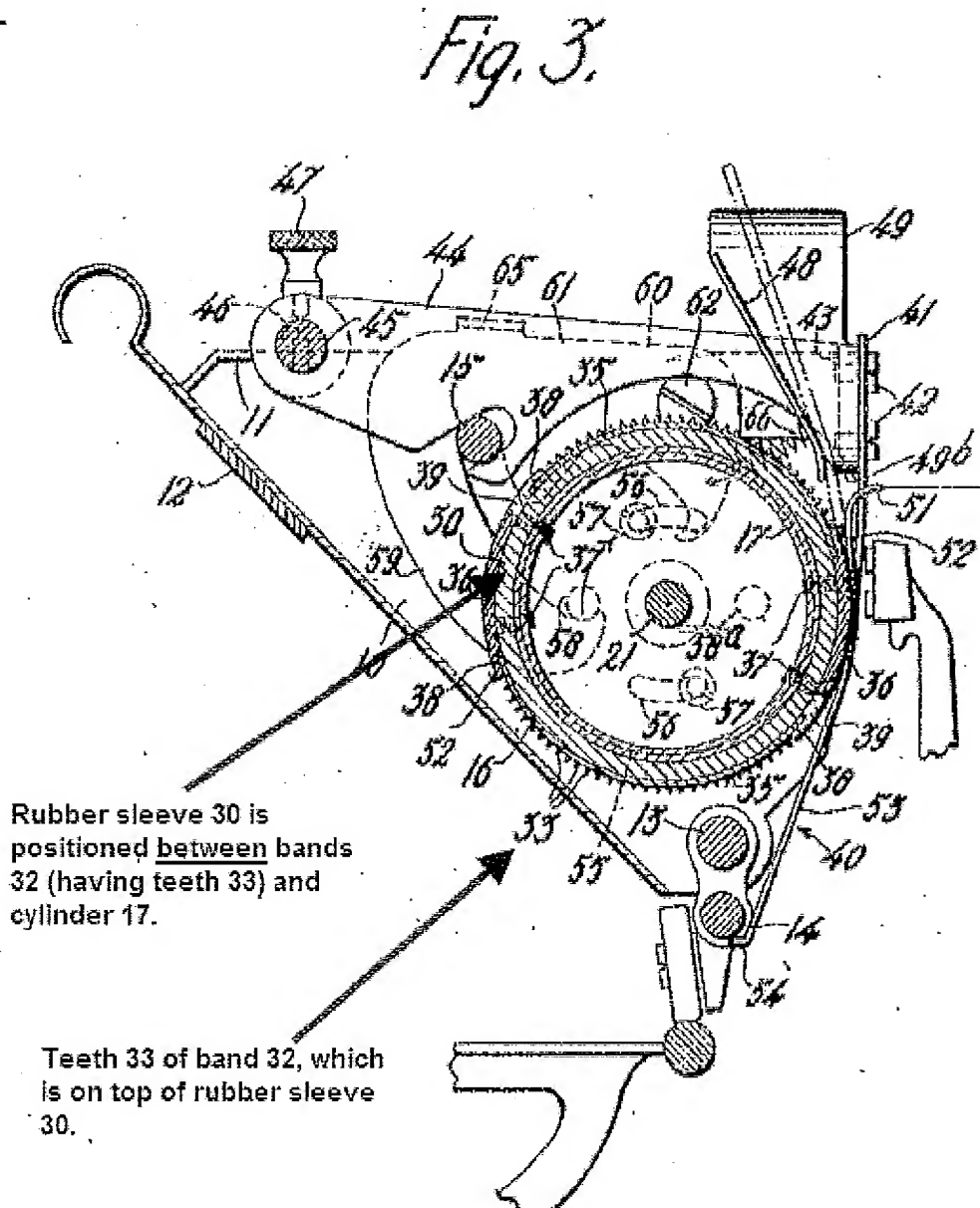
With regard to claim 49, Applicants respectfully note that the friction ring is the same as the flexible belt recited in claim 49 and it is a flexible belt that comprises the additional claim limitations recited in claim 49. With regard to claim 60, Applicants respectfully note that the friction ring is the same as the at least one belt recited in claim 60 and it is a belt that comprises the additional claim limitations for the belt as recited in the claim 60. Accordingly, in each respective claim 49 and 60, a friction ring is further limited to a belt having the limitations as set forth for each such claim.

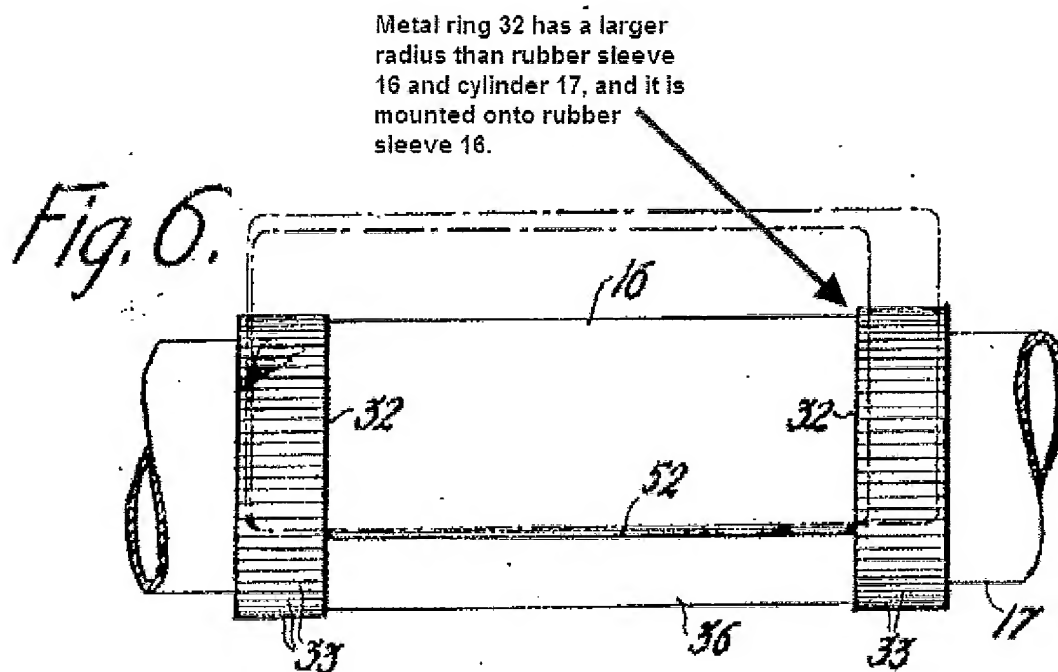
CLAIM REJECTIONS- 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 49-54, 56, 57 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (US 1,554,253) in view of Labesky (US 5,833,776). However, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because, unlike Applicants’ independent claim 49, Smith does

not disclose a flexible belt located on a portion of a roll body having a radius r_1 that is less than a radius r_2 of another portion of that roll body.

Smith (US 1,554,253) is directed to a type writing machine that has cylinder 17 of constant radius over its length as shown in Figs 1-7. As shown in Figs. 3, 4, 6, and 7 and described at page 2, line 112 to page 3, line 38, cylinder 17 is equipped with a rubber sleeve 30 that is mounted onto cylinder 17. Thus, rubber sleeve 30 has a radius larger than cylinder 17. In turn, metal rings 32 are mounted onto rubber sleeve 30 as shown in Figs. 3 and 6.





Accordingly, Smith's metal rings 32 are not mounted on portion of cylinder 17 (or even sleeve 16) having a radius r_1 that is less than another portion having a larger radius of r_2 . To the contrary, Smith's metal rings 32 are mounted on the largest radius possible because rubber sleeve 16 is located between metal rings 32 and cylinder 17 as shown in Figs. 3 and 6.

In contrast, Applicants' claim 49 requires a flexible belt that is mounted onto a roll body having at least two portions, one portion with a radius or r_1 and the other portion with a radius of r_2 , where radius r_1 is less than r_2 . Claim 49 requires that the flexible belt is mounted onto the portion with the lesser radius r_1 . As set forth in Applicants' specification at page 7, this feature assists in preventing axial displacement of the flexible belt along the roll body. As stated above, Smith places the metal rings 32 on the largest radius available. Labesky does not supply the limitation missing from Smith.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 49 – along with its dependent claims 50 through 59 - is improper because none of the cited references discloses a flexible belt placed upon a portion of a roll body having a lesser radius r_1 .

In addition, with regard to Applicants' claim 51, Applicants further submit that neither Smith nor Labesky indicate that the hooks are oriented such that during operation, a load is applied in a non-axial direction to lock together the pair of hooks. Smith does not show hooks. Labesky does not disclose the application of a load in a non-axial direction that locks together the ends of the spring. To the contrary, Labesky's Bellville springs operate under axial loads.

Additionally, Applicants' claim 58 requires a fastening apparatus having a pair of hooks joined to the flexible belt, wherein the flexible belt is formed from a material that is more elastic than the material used for constructing the pair of hooks. Smith does not show hooks. Labesky does not disclose the use of different materials for the connectors vs. the body of the Bellville spring.

Claims 55 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Labesky as applied to claim 49, and further in view of Burke et al. (US 5,507,226). Claims 55 and 58 depend from claim 49. Accordingly, for the same reasons set forth above with regard to claim 49, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request that the claims be allowed.

Claims 60, 63 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke et al. in view of Labesky. However, neither of these references discloses a belt having two ends that are configured for connection or separation from each other by displacement of one end relative to the other along a radial direction of the rotatable roll body. Burke et al. does not disclose a belt having ends. Labesky's ends cannot be separated by movement along the

radial direction and, instead, require movement along the axial direction. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request that claims 60, 63, and 66 be allowed.

Claims 61 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke et al. in view of Labesky as applied to claim 60 and further in view of Smith. Claims 61 and 65 each depend from claim 60. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 61 and 65 for the same reasons as set forth above with regard to claim 60.

Claim 67 is an independent claim that includes a requirement that the friction ring is carried on the portion of a rotatable roll body having a radius of r_1 and the friction ring is positioned axially adjacent to a portion of the roll body with a radius r_2 . Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is allowable over the cited references for reasons similar to that set forth above with regard to claim 49.

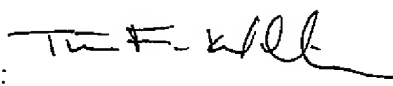
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be allowed. If any other fee or extension of time is required to obtain the entry of this response, the undersigned hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant any necessary time and extension and authorize its charging deposit account no. 04-1403 for any such fee not submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned if any issues remain after this amendment. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

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